

12/10/01

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| In re Application of | : | Toshiharu EMMEI |
| Serial no. | : | |
| Filed | : | |
| For | : | KEY SYSTEM |
| Group Art Unit | : | 2635 |
| Examiner | : | Matsuichiro Shimizu |
| Docket | : | ADACHI P145USD1 |

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

By way of preliminary amendment, please amend the above identified application as set forth below.

In the Drawings:

Please amend Figs. 3 and 11 of the drawings presently on file per the attached Submission. Also please enter the enclosed new formal Figs. 1-17, accompanying this Submission, which incorporate all of the requested drawing amendments.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-5, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, in favor of new claims 6-9 as follows.

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FOOTER "2257001"

6. (NEW) A key system for equipment operation, the key system comprising:
an ID card for storing ID data;
ID storage mechanism, other than the ID card, for maintaining stored ID data;
coincidence determination mechanism for ascertaining whether or not the ID data stored in the ID card and the ID data stored in the ID storage mechanisms coincide with each other;

a mechanical key;
a mechanical key switch for being enabled by mechanism of the mechanical key;
operation enabling mechanism for enabling the mechanical key switch without the mechanical key; and

control mechanism for controlling the equipment operation, the control mechanism enabling the equipment operation (1) when the mechanical key switch is enabled by the mechanical key as well as the coincidence determination mechanism ascertains coincidence of the ID data stored in the ID card and the stored ID data maintained in the ID storage mechanisms, and (2) when the operation enabling mechanisms is actuated to enable the equipment operation solely by the ID card where the coincidence determination mechanism ascertains coincidence of the ID data stored in the ID card and the stored ID card maintained in the ID storage mechanism.

7. (NEW) The key system for a lock mechanism activated by at least one of an ID card and a mechanical key, the key system comprising:

ID signal receiving mechanisms for receiving ID output signals transmitted from the ID card;

ID extracting mechanism for extracting ID card data from ID output signals received by the ID signal receiving mechanism;

ID storage mechanism for maintaining stored ID data;
coincidence determination mechanism for ascertaining whether or not there is stored ID data coinciding with the ID card data extracted by the ID extracting mechanism;

a mechanical key switch having a port for receiving the mechanical key, the mechanical key switch controlled by an operation enabling mechanism permitting operation of the key switch;

the key system further comprises a first mode and a second mode, in the first mode the mechanical key is received in the mechanical key switch port and the ID signal receiving mechanism received ID output signals transmitted from the ID card and where the coincidence determination mechanism ascertains coincidence of the stored ID data and the extracted ID card data the operation enabling mechanism is actuated to enable operation of the mechanical key switch; and

in the second mode the operation enabling mechanism is actuated solely by the ID card wherein the ID signal receiving mechanism receives ID output signals transmitted from the ID card and where the coincidence determination mechanism ascertains coincidence of the stored ID data and the extracted ID card data, the operation enabling mechanism is actuated to enable operation of the mechanical key switch without the mechanical key.

8. (NEW) The key system for a lock mechanism as set forth in claim 7 further comprising a master ID card wherein the key system is selected to be operated in one the first and second mode by setting the mechanical key switch to an operation mode selection position and the ID signal receiving mechanisms receives the master ID card data transmitted from the master ID card and where the coincidence determination mechanism ascertains coincidence of the master ID card and the stored master ID card one of the first and second mode is selected.

9. (NEW) The key system for a lock mechanism as set forth in claim 8, wherein the mechanical key switch receives the mechanical key to enable setting of the mechanical key switch to the operation mode selection position.

REMARKS

The drawings are amended, per the attached Submission, to overcome a few noted informalities contained therein. If any further amendment to the drawings of this application is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

Please consider the newly entered claims upon substantive consideration of this divisional application.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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**SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED DRAWING AMENDMENT
FOR APPROVAL BY EXAMINER (37 CFR 1.123)**

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto please find a copy of Figs. 3 and 11 of the original drawings with red ink markings showing proposed changes to the drawings of this application for which the approval of the Examiner is requested. Please find a further Submission of Formal Drawings attached.

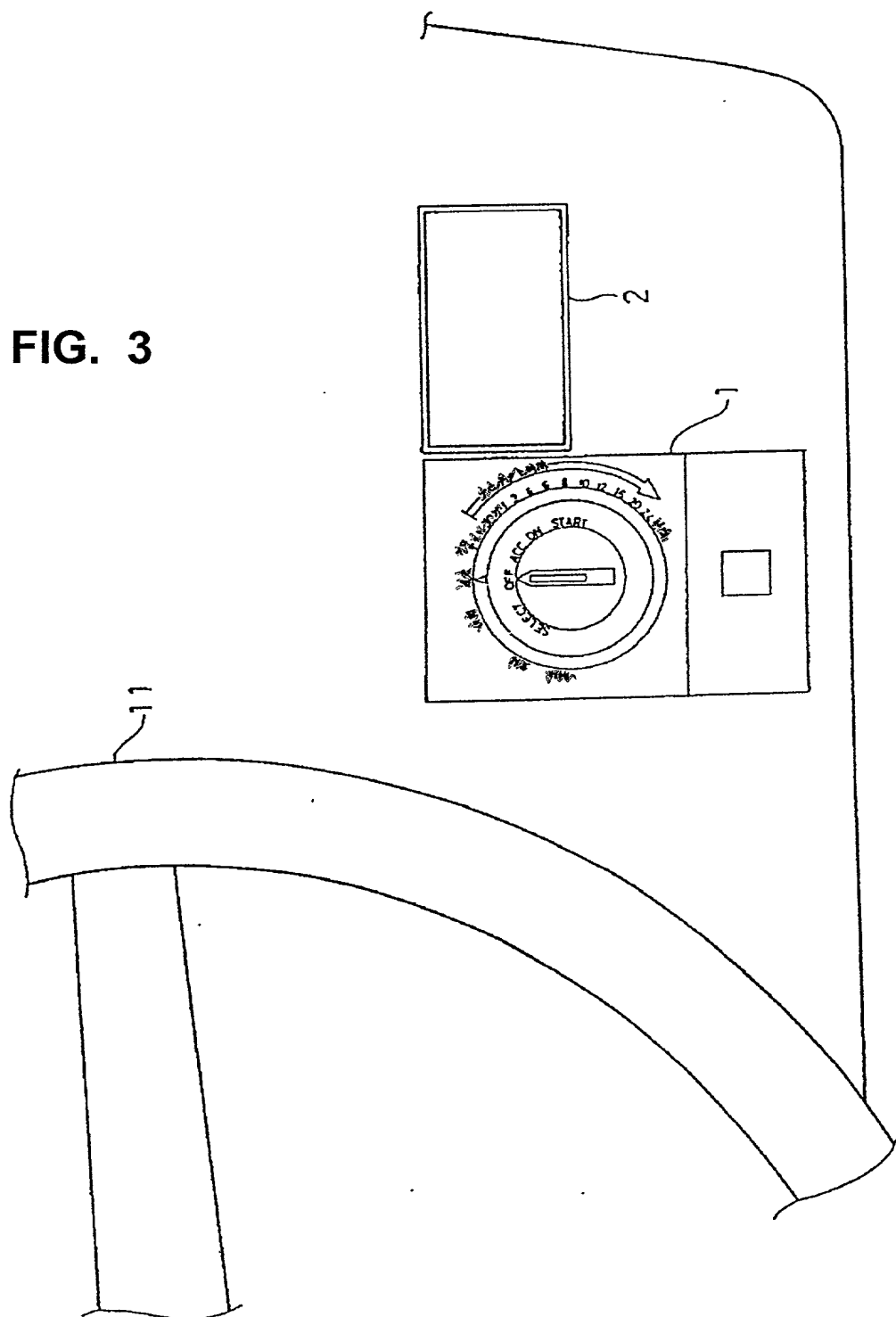
In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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FIG. 3



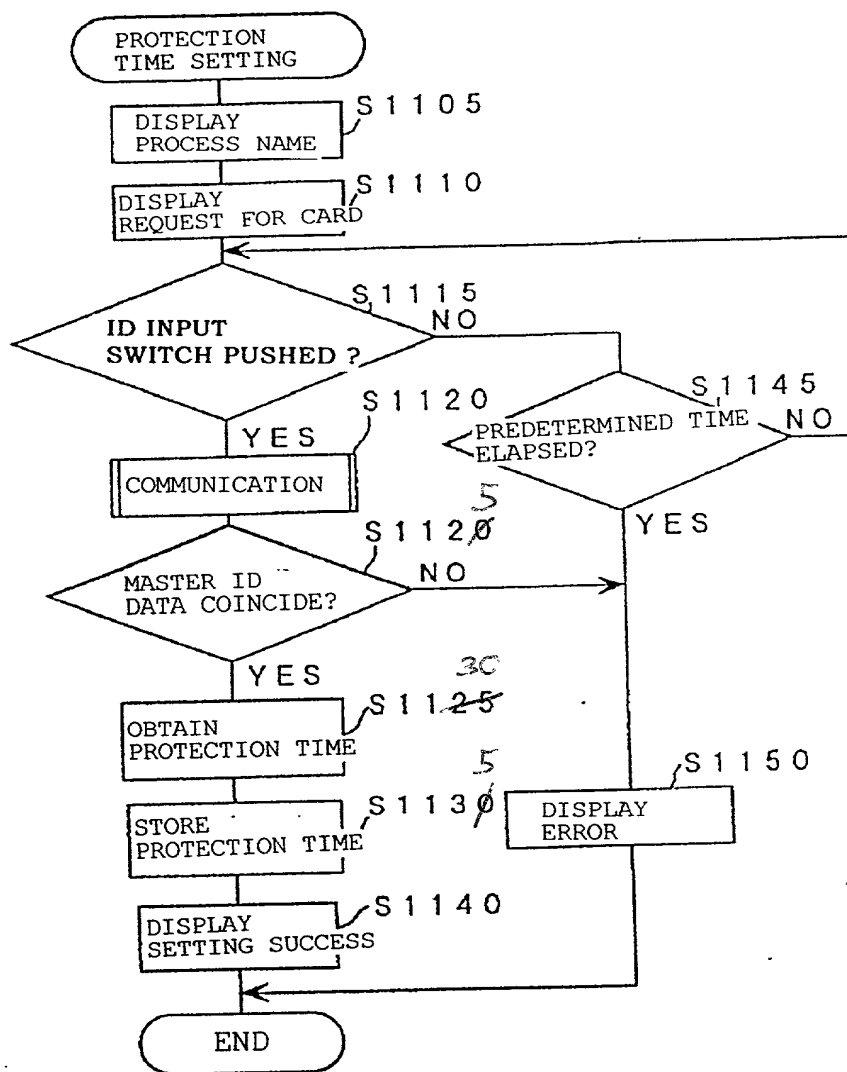


FIG. 11